(25) Fodder Corporation of India should be established with its branches in each State on the pattern of the Food Corporation of India.

(26) Special fodder production drive should be undertaken by the Agriculture Universities and Agriculture Ministries in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

(27) The Central/State Governments should subsidies the fodder sale on the pattern of subsidy given to people below poverty line form ration shops.

(28) A circular should be issued to the State Government, Gram Panchayats & Municipal Committees to regulate and maintain the stray cattle.

(29) Every state must have a breed centre which should concentrate on the development of local bread alone.

(30) The Cattle Laws Enforcement Directorate shoud be constituted which shall be incharge of the movement of cows, bulls etc. from place to place and State to State.

(31) Export and Import of beef should be totally banned.

(32) Cow should be declared as National Animal and killing of cow and its progeny should be made constitutional offence.

**Conditions of small and marginal farmers**

1727. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:
SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMACHANDRAYYA:
SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTRE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the pitiable conditions of small and marginal farmers leading to distress sale of their products and to suicides in extreme cases;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether a study has been conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation in this regard;

(d) if so, the details of findings;

(e) whether Government have formulated any plan to offer reliefs to these farmers;

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(g) whether Government propose to waive crop insurance premium for them, and

(h) how the Tenth Five Year Plan addresses to the problems of these farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The main objectives of the Government's price policy for agricultural produce are aimed at ensuring remunerative prices to the farmers including small and marginal farmers for their produce with a view to encourage higher investment and production. The Government fixes each season Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) of major agricultural commodities and organizes purchase operations through public and coperave agencies such as Food Corporation India (F.C.I.-paddy, wheat and coarse cereals), Jute Corporation of India (J.C.I.-Jute), Cotton Corporation of India (C.C.I.-Cotton), National Agrcultural Cooperative Marketing Federation (NAFED-pules and oilseeds) and Tobacco Board (Tobacco), besides other agencies designated by the Governments. The designated Central Nodal Agencies are required to intervene in the market for undertaking purchase operations in case, the prices fall below the MSPs fixed by the Government by and large, the wholesale prices of major agricultural commodities are ruling above the MSPs fixed by the Government and there are no reports of distress sale during the 2002-03 season.

(c) and (d) The National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) has not conducted any survey regarding conditions of small and marginal farmers. However, a Situation Assessment Survey of farmers is currently being conducted by the NSSO.The field work for the Survey commenced in January, 2003 and is planned to continue till December, 2003. The report of the Survey is expected to be available after about 12 months from the date of completion of field work of the Survey, *i.e.* towards the end of the year, 2004.

(e) and (f) The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation is implementing various schemes for increasing agricultural production and productivity and they are meant for all categories of farmers. These schemes provide assistance in various components and some of the components give special consideration to certain category of farmers such as small and marginal farmers.

The Government also implements schemes for price and market support which, *inter-alia,* helps in strengthening the farm income and economic conditions of the farmers. These schemes cover all categories of farmers including small and marginal farmers.

(g) There is no proposal under consideration to waive premium for Crop Insurance under National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (N.A.I.S.). However, there is a provision to provide 50% premia-subsidy to small and marginal farmers by the Government. The Premia-subsidy will be phased out over a period of five years;

(h) Schemes providing for special consideration to certain categories of farmers like small and marginal farmers are being continued during the Tenth Plan. As regards other schemes, the benefits of increase in production and productivity in agriculture are expected to accrue to all farmers, including the small and marginal farmers.

**Production of export quality rice**

1728. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that even after extending 50 per cent subsidy on inputs for cultivating export quality rice, the farmers are unable to compete in the International market;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor, and

(c) the action proposed to make agriculture cost-effective by adapting new technologies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The quality rice (basmati) exported during the last three years has shown increasing trend as mentioned below:-